



# Grants Pass Department of Public Safety

*"Keeping Grants Pass safe since 1887"*

## MEDIA RELEASE



**Nature:** Arson I

Incident Number: 2017-42372

**Location:** 1014 NE A Street, Grants Pass, OR

**Date/Time Reported:** September 4, 2017 at approximately 1700 hrs.

**Completed by:** Det. A. Lidey      **Approved by:** Lt. Misty English

**Arrestee:**

Ruff, Dean      07/15/61  
WMA, 5'08" 165 Lbs., Brown Hair, Brown Eyes  
Grants Pass, OR

**CHARGES:**

- Arson I
- \*\*Lodged at Josephine County Jail\*\***

**VICTIM:**

WFA      Age 89 years old  
Resident of above address

**INJURY:**

Injury to hip in course of evacuation; transported to Three Rivers Medical Center (TRMC) for treatment

**NARRATIVE:**

On September 4, 2017, at approximately 1700 hrs., the Grants Pass Department of Public Safety (GPDPS) Dispatch was inundated with reports of a large fire in the yard of a residence in the 1000 block of NE A Street. The fire initially involved rose bushes, shrubbery, and a large tree, and quickly moved to nearby power lines, a car parked in front of said residence, and began threatening neighboring homes.

GPDPS Police and Fire units were on scene within less than one minute of the first reports of the fire.

GPDPS Fire, assisted by GPDPS Patrol, quickly engaged the fire and began evacuating the primary residence of 1014 NE A Street, where two elderly people reside. In the course of their evacuation, an 89-year-old female suffered a bruised hip and was transported to TRMC for treatment.

This neighborhood is home to numerous individual and adjacent residences, an Elder Care home, and a large apartment complex across the street. As a result of the quick fire response and rapid efficiencies of the aforementioned responders, to include American Medical Response (AMR), the fire was quickly controlled, no one else was injured and no other residences were damaged.

An alert citizen had observed the suspect, Dean Ruff, behaving suspiciously moments before the fire and reported said observations to GPDPS officers. Ruff was located in the area of the fire by patrol officers, while efforts to extinguish the fire were still occurring, and he was detained.

GPDPS Detectives arrived to assist in the investigation, and Ruff was subsequently arrested and lodged at the Josephine County Jail for Arson I.

Anyone who witnessed the incident or who has information relative to the investigation is encouraged to contact GPDPS Detective Archie Lidey at (541) 450-6342.